

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1-4 and 6-11 as follows below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- A/
1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing power consumption of a LCD(Liquid Crystal Display) backlight lamp in a LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), comprising:
    - a power unit ~~for supplying~~ configured to supply power;
    - a control unit ~~being supplied~~ configured to receive power ~~supplied~~ from the power unit and ~~outputting output~~ a brightness control information signal having a plurality of discrete incremental level values corresponding to discrete brightness levels;
    - an inverter unit ~~receiving~~ configured to receive the brightness control information signal from the control unit and ~~outputting output~~ driving power ~~of a~~ corresponding level ~~in accordance therewith~~; for driving a backlight lamp by levels; and
    - a backlight lamp ~~receiving~~ configured to receive the power from the inverter unit wherein when the LCD is turned on or a wake up operation is activated after a suspend mode, the control unit is configured to control the brightness adjustment information signal

so as to be related to a brightness increase curve of the backlight lamp such that power supplied to the backlight lamp is gradually increased over time.

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2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a memory unit storing a configured to store control information for adjusting a brightness brightness of a [[LCD]] screen of a LCD.
  3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a key input unit configured to receive input from a user for adjusting a brightness of a LCD screen.
  4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit includes:  
a keyboard controller discriminating unit configured to discriminate a key press state by a user and outputting output a brightness adjustment key input signal;  
a microprocessor receiving configured to receive the brightness adjustment key input signal and selecting select a kind of brightness adjustment information and a brightness ROM table, and outputting the output brightness control information;

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a brightness adjustment information outputting unit outputting a configured to receive the brightness control information from the microprocessor and output the brightness adjustment control information signal to the inverter unit according to the brightness control information inputted from the microprocessor.

5. (Canceled)

*AI Cnt* 6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the brightness adjustment information outputting unit outputs a digital brightness adjustment control information signal converted into information required for the brightness adjustment to the inverter unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the digital brightness adjustment control information signal uses includes a voltage level of a D/A port, a PWM duty cycle signal, or a SM BUS (System Management Bus) signal.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the memory unit includes a memory unit storing brightness is further configured to store control information [[of]] including a last brightness control information signal output by level inputted from the

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control unit and the memory unit further comprises an incremental brightness variation value setting unit ~~for outputting~~ configured to output a preset brightness value by incremental level to the control unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the incremental brightness variation value setting unit sets a brightness variation value quantity by incremental level or a variation time by incremental level according to an input by a user.

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10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the power unit uses a power adapter or a battery as a power source and ~~is constructed with~~ further comprises a power discrimination unit ~~for discriminating~~ configured to discriminate between the power sources.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for saving power of a LCD backlight lamp in a LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), comprising:

outputting a brightness control information signal to an inverter unit corresponding to a brightness information value, wherein when the LCD is turned on or a wake up operation is activated after a suspend mode, the brightness information value gradually increases over a certain predetermined time period in consideration of luminescent

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characteristics of a backlight lamp such that power supplied to the backlight lamp is gradually increased over time; and

outputting a constant brightness information control signal corresponding to the brightness information value after the gradually increased brightness information value reaches a preset value.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the luminescent characteristics vary according to one or more of a thickness, length, kind of enclosed gas, and environmental temperature of the backlight lamp.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit controls the brightness control information signal by referring to a brightness ROM table configured based on luminescent characteristics of the backlight lamp.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the luminescent characteristics vary according to one or more of a thickness, length, kind of enclosed gas, and environmental temperature of the backlight lamp.

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15. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the brightness control information signal output by the control unit comprises one of a plurality of discrete incremental level values corresponding to discrete brightness levels, and the inverter unit outputs power to the backlight lamp at a level corresponding to the required brightness level.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control information includes the brightness control information signal.

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17. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the control information further includes a brightness level information increment value and a variation time value.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the memory unit stores the control information when the backlight lamp is turned off or dimmed.

19. (New) A LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) comprising the apparatus of claim 1.